



Class Act

King County Solid Waste Division's School Recycling Program Newsletter

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Teacher Feedback Needed on New Hazards on the Homefront Guide

A team of educators is revising the *Hazards on the Homefront* teacher's guide for grades 4-12. If you are interested in testing revised or new lessons on household hazardous waste, we would love to hear from you. On March 20 (grades 4-6) and May 1, 1999 (grades 7-12), we are holding mini-workshops that will focus on testing some of the revised activities in the classroom. If you would like to test out the new activities or participate in a workshop, please call René Alexander or Jennifer Howell at 206/583-0655. Teachers will receive a stipend for participating.

Interested in Waste Reduction, Recycling, and Composting?



The 1999 training for King County's Master Recycler Composter (MRC) Program will take place from March 11-April 22 in Tukwila. Training includes classroom sessions, field demonstrations,

and hands-on activities focusing on resource conservation, waste prevention, recycling, and home composting. In return for the training, program graduates agree to share their knowledge and skills with others by volunteering 40 hours of community outreach (schools included!). The training will be held on seven Thursday evenings and three Saturdays. Anyone who lives in King County outside of the city of Seattle is eligible to apply. Clock or credit hours can be earned for participating in the program. If you are interested in becoming an MRC, contact Karen

May at the King County Solid Waste Division by calling 206/296-4353 or via e-mail at karen.may@metrokc.gov. Applications for this training will be accepted through March 5, 1999.

If you are interested in having an MRC visit your classroom to address waste reduction, recycling or composting topics, contact the MRC Hotline at 206/343-8505. MRCs have presented information about how to create a waste-free lunch, educated students about what materials are recyclable, and have taught students how to create worm bins for food waste composting. Other ideas are welcome! We'd like to forge more links between the MRC volunteers and schools and encourage you to tap into this talented pool of experts.



Middle and High School Students Design Recycling Posters

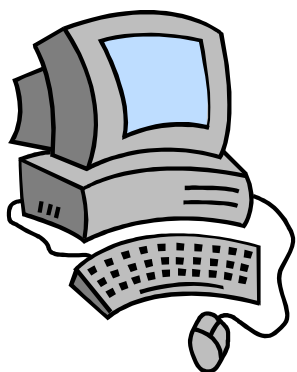
Students at twelve King County middle and high schools are designing posters to boost campus recycling programs under a program sponsored by the King County Solid Waste Division. Based on interviews with



students, the two main deterrents to recycling at school are lack of recycling bins in the classroom and inconspicuous bins placed in inconvenient areas. As part of the program, students will receive a recycling bin, will research the existing placement of bins and recycling levels, and then design a poster to encourage and increase recycling. A panel of judges will review the poster designs at each

school. Awards will be given to the winner of the best design at each school and overall winners in the middle school and high school categories. High schools participating are: Kentlake, Shorecrest, Sammamish, Truman, Bothell, and Mt. Rainier. Middle/junior high schools are: Issaquah, Chief Kanim, Finn Hill, Showalter, Nelson, and Glacier Park.

Teachers Now Cruise the Web for HHW Resources



What household hazardous waste (HHW) videos are good for high school students? Where can I take my class on a field trip? My kids are doing a research project on pesticides and I need some resources for them. And, oh, I can never get to a phone . . . do you have a quicker way to

schedule an HHW classroom visit?

Answers to these and many more questions are easy to find by visiting the new household hazardous waste website for teachers. Lesson materials are available to download and copy for immediate classroom use. Also included is an annotated list of the LHWMP's best videos for kids. A yearly calendar lists workshops and other events.

The site also offers valuable information to students. The reference section lists materials available for loan from the LHWMP library. The regularly updated section on hot HHW-related news articles includes issues that affect kids.

Easy links take users to the IMEX catalogue, to the hazardous waste library, or to a list of other King County education sites. Further "surfing" will link teachers to sites of other hazardous waste-related organizations. Check it out at www.metrokc.gov/hazwaste/teachers



HHW Classroom Visits Still Available

A few spots are still left in February and March for HHW class visits. Teachers can call Gail Gensler at 206/689-3082 or reach her via email (gail.gensler@metrokc.gov) or via the teacher website.

Improve Safety: Free Help for Middle/High School Labs

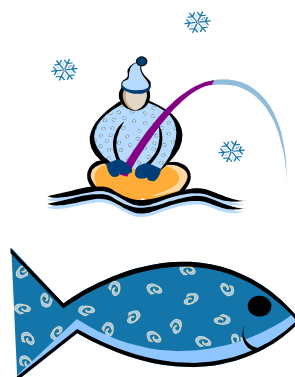
The Department of Ecology "laboratory sweeps" program will help middle and high school science labs review their chemicals free of charge. A staff person will come to a school and do any or all of the following as needed: do a complete inventory of the science labs and science storage rooms, color code all the chemicals by type of hazard, reorganize storage of chemicals to segregate incompatibles, and make



recommendations for disposal of unneeded chemicals. This is a fabulous service, especially since it's free. Teachers in King County should contact Dave Waddell at 206/689-3069 to schedule.

The Fish Who Could Climb Mountains

A special insert, *The Fish Who Could Climb Mountains*, describes how our daily practices can affect the survival and health of our fish. Free copies can be obtained by calling Valerie Dascil at 206/296-1968.



RecycleArtists Coming to These Schools

Ten King County middle and high schools are creating videos, transforming scrap into lanterns and other functional art, and painting murals on construction panels for King County's new football/soccer stadium. They are participating in a joint program sponsored by King County's Solid Waste Division and Arts Commission that puts professional artists in schools to encourage creativity, critical thinking, and environmental awareness. Projects range from 20-50 hours and vary from year to year.



Students at Tahoma, Robinswood, and Enumclaw High Schools and Kilo Junior High will be working with artists Melissa de Wrangel and Robert Peele. De Wrangel transforms scavenged materials into useful or artistic objects, such as lanterns. Peele is a Haida carver who gathers natural materials such as branches, bark, driftwood, and hair to carve or weave objects, both utilitarian and artistic, which tell stories. Both artists use the artistic opportunity to discuss the interrelatedness of art and architecture, design and decoration, place and community, and life and death in the creative process.

South Shore Middle School, Mercer Island High School, and McMurray Junior High School students will create videos under the direction of Malory Graham, a local video artist. Students will create 30-second Public Service Announcements on the topics of recycling, natural resources, and conservation. The finished videos will be broadcast on Channel 29 and possibly local networks.

Students at Mercer Island High School and one other school will paint murals on construction fence panels that reflect themes that are relevant to the environment. Professional artist mentors will assist the students with the design and painting. The panels will be used around the new football/soccer stadium or other public places.

If your school/class is interested in participating in the RecycleArtist program next year, call Bill Smith at the King County Solid Waste Division, 206/296-4407.

Zero In On Waste Education Rewards and Mini-Grants for Middle and High Schools

Schools, teachers, and/or students who use the *Zero in on Waste* curriculum can receive up to \$500 in grant assistance or other rewards. *Zero in on Waste* teacher guides have been developed for science and social studies teachers in middle and high schools. The lessons challenge students to think about the environment and how it is affected by the choices individuals, governments, and businesses make. Teachers

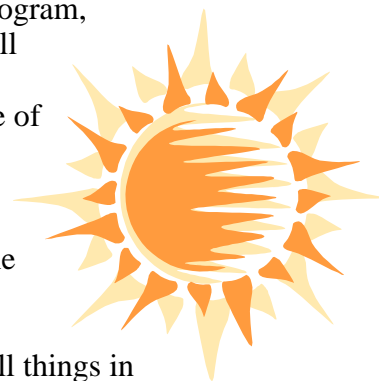


who use the curriculum can receive \$500 mini-grants for conducting projects, purchasing supplies, or paying

speaker fees. The school can receive an additional \$100 to be used by the principal to augment the teacher's lesson or reward a class for outstanding completion of a lesson activity. Students who complete projects are eligible to receive a reward of merchandise or event coupons. Students may apply individually or as part of a group. To be eligible, teachers must use the *Zero in on Waste* teacher guide and fill out a simple, one-page application form. Applications will be accepted through April 30, 1999. For more information, call Donna Miscolta at 206/296-4477.

Look for the Natural Connections

A one-hour television program, *Natural Connections*, will take viewers around the world with the assistance of experts in the field to demonstrate the world's diversity and how our actions affect the globe. The goal of the program is to help the viewer understand that all things in nature are connected, that what we do as individuals has a direct impact, and that we need



to accept responsibility for our actions. Destinations include Costa Rica, Tatoosh Island off the Olympic Coast, British Columbia's Adams River, and the Gifford Pinchot National Forest. Experts range from Edward O. Wilson, the "dean of biodiversity studies," at Harvard University to Jerry Franklin, the "guru of old-growth," at the University of Washington. The program is sponsored by King County's Department of Natural Resources. Teaching materials related to the show will be available prior to its airing on KOMO-TV. Look for further information about this program when the airing date is finalized.

Tools for Understanding Environmental Education

The new guide *Tools for Understanding Environmental Education* is available from the Office of

Environmental Education (OSPI). This guide is for teachers and parents who are curious about how environmental topics can be used as a framework for interdisciplinary education. Call 206/365-3893 to order a copy.



Washington Toxics Coalition

Washington Toxics Coalition offers a four-page fact sheet on pesticide use in schools (\$1.50) and a report for reducing pesticide use in schools (\$5.00). These education pieces can help King County schools develop policies to minimize and notify parents of pesticide use. To order or get more information, call Erika Schreder at 206/632-1545 or email at info@watoxics.org.

Green Team Workshops

FREE workshops are available to elementary classrooms in King County (outside of Seattle) interested in taking on waste reduction and recycling activities. The classroom workshops are appropriate for students from kindergarten through 6th grade. Topics range from identifying recyclables or choosing recycled products to starting and maintaining a worm bin or choosing packages with less garbage. If your class plans include topics about recycling, patterns in nature, consumer education, or waste reduction in general, please call René Alexander at 206/583-0655 to receive a list of workshop topics and to schedule a visit.

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Check out King County Solid Waste Division's new web page for teachers at www.metrokc.gov/dnr/swd/index.htm

